

IM-155

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO :

DATE: 31 -30 March '49

FROM :

Recent Anti-American Demonstrations.

SUBJECT: IAD-158: Request for Preparation of an Intelligence Estimate

Reference: Collection Request No. 7306.1 CIA

1. ~~Re the attached request for preparation of an intelligence estimate, the Central American and Caribbean Section~~ does not believe that the recent demonstrations in Habana (over the behavior of 3 US sailors), and in Ciudad Trujillo (over the behavior of certain US naval personnel) and in Panama (over the expulsion of Max Brodsky) can be fitted into any pattern with the Communist street demonstrations which have recently taken place in London, Rome and other foreign cities.

2. Specifically, the Brodsky expulsion demonstrations, we believe, represent the individual and wholly uncoordinated (from the international standpoint) reaction of Communist and fellow-traveller Panamanians to an event precipitated by positive action on the part of a capitalistic government. In other words, Panamanians, by expelling from the Republic an official connected with a large and influential labor union many members of which -- the Communist issue quite apart -- believe to be a satisfactory representative of their particular problems -- created an issue which the Communists were quick to exploit to the full from the propaganda standpoint; an issue the value of which was further heightened from the Communist standpoint by the fact that there is some doubt among certain responsible non and anti-communists over the constitutionality of the expulsion order as it was applied in Brodsky's case. In short, the anti-Communists made the first move and the Communists were quick to react.

3. In the case of the demonstrations in the Dominican Republic, the non-existence of a communist apparatus in that country makes it most difficult to believe that the recent demonstrations there could (a) have been part of a Communist pattern, or (b) been Communist inspired. On the contrary we believe them to have been more or less the inevitable result of the pressures placed on a relatively primitive and isolated community by the presence in the area of an unusually large body of unattached and aggressive foreign males. The Communist and anti-US press in other countries was, of course, quick to seize upon the incident and exploit it from the propaganda standpoint.

4. In the case of the demonstrations in Cuba, we do not believe that the incident itself was precipitated by Communist action nor do we believe it can be fitted into a pattern of Communist activity. The speed with which the incident was seized upon by the Communists in Cuba is, of course, evidence of the highly integrated and organized Communist apparatus in that country. ^{But} the fact that a photographer was present when the incident occurred (an important factor in allowing the Communists fully to exploit the propaganda value of the incident) and the fact that the sailors selected the statue of Marti rather than any other statue in all Havana upon which to commit the incident ~~we believe to have been mere~~ purely fortuitous.

We understand the Navy is investigating the Cuban incident to determine whether there was any planning in the presence of a photograph. ~~we believe both~~